

## THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Resumption of the Debate Upon  
the Budget.

## ABLE REPLY TO MR. CLANCY.

Mr. Balfour Delivers a Telling  
Speech.ONTARIO'S SPLENDID POSITION SET FORTH  
BY MR. WOOD AND OTHER SPEAKERS  
—NOTES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

TORONTO, Feb. 23, 1892.

In the Legislative Assembly this afternoon among the petitions received were the following:—

Mr. Davis—Of 400 ratepayers of the County of York, for an amendment to the Municipal Act reducing the taxes on farm lands situated in towns and villages.

Mr. Gilmour—Of the York County Council, for an amendment to the local improvement law to provide that Township Councils may assess the costs of roadmaking in a manner similar to that in which the cost of drains are assessed; also of the same, regarding the discharge of firearms in public places.

Mr. E. F. Clarke—Of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, regarding Ashbridge's Bay and other matters.

Mr. Baxter—Of the Canada Southern Railway, that the bill to incorporate the Village of Victoria be not passed.

There was also the usual batch of petitions for a change in the liquor license law, and for the abolition of the contract system on public works, etc.

The following bills were introduced and received a first reading:—

Mr. Clancy—To consolidate the debt of the Town of Chatham.

Mr. Guthrie—To amend the act respecting the public burying ground of Guelph.

Mr. Caldwell—Respecting the Kingston Light, Heat & Power Company.

Mr. Snider—To amend the act respecting the Mercantile Fire Insurance Company.

Mr. Dryden—To consolidate the debt of Oshawa.

Mr. McKay (Oxford)—To amend the General Road Company's Act.

Mr. Harcourt—Respecting the Village of Niagara Falls.

Mr. Waters—To amend the Assessment Act.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton) presented the following returns:—Report upon the common gaols, prisons and reformatories for 1891; report upon the hospitals for 1891; return regarding the fees received in the two registry divisions of Toronto; return showing the date of the certificate of the judges appointed to try the North Perth election petition, etc.

## THE BUDGET DEBATE.

The debate on the budget was then resumed by Mr. Balfour, and he proceeded at once to a refutation of the arguments advanced by Mr. Clancy. That the budget had never been presented more ably, more eloquently, or more to the satisfaction of the House or of the country than by the hon. Treasurer he thought all would agree. (Applause.) The hon. member for Kent had made the statement that this Government started with \$4,000,000 and no debt, but the statement lost much of its force when they considered the course of the Op-